

6238.0.55.001 - Microdata: Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Retirement and Retirement Intentions, July 2010 to June 2011

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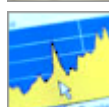
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Introduction



INTRODUCTION

This product provides a range of information about the release of microdata from the July 2010 to June 2011 Multipurpose Household Survey topics:

- Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation (cat. no. 6239.0) ,and
- Retirement and Retirement Intentions (cat. no. 6238.0).

The summary of findings for these topics are found in Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation (cat. no. 6239.0) and Retirement and Retirement Intentions (cat. no. 6238.0). Microdata was previously released from 2008-2009 topics and is available as a Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF).

Microdata are the most detailed information available from a survey and are generally the responses to individual questions on the questionnaire or data derived from two or more questions. They are released with the approval of the Australian Statistician.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS

Microdata for the Barriers and Incentives in Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions topics are available through the TableBuilder product - an online tool for creating tables and graphs from ABS survey data.

Before applying for access, users should read and familiarise themselves with the information contained in the User Manual: TableBuilder.

APPLY FOR ACCESS

To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in Registration Centre.

Further information on access steps can be found on the How to Apply for Microdata on the ABS web site.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the topics and the microdata products can be found in:

- The detailed list of data items for the TableBuilder is available on the Downloads tab
- The Quality Declaration, Abbreviations and Glossary in the Explanatory Notes tab

SUPPORT

For support in the use of these products, please contact Microdata Access Strategies on 02 6252 7714 or via microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Some data collected in the survey may not be included on TableBuilder but may be available on request, as statistics in tabulated form. Details of the data items collected can be found in the Downloads tab in Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation (cat. no. 6239.0) and Retirement and Retirement Intentions (cat. no. 6238.0).

Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, special tabulations can be produced incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. Contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or client.services@abs.gov.au for further information.

Survey Methodology



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Information about the July 2010 to June 2011 Multipurpose Household survey topics Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions topics, including summary results, are available in the publications Barriers and Incentives in Labour Force Participation (cat. no. 6239.0) and Retirement and Retirement Intentions Australia (cat. no. 6238.0).

All summary tables, in Excel spreadsheet format, can be accessed from the Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation Downloads page or the Retirement and Retirement Intentions Downloads page.

Detailed information about the survey including scope and coverage, survey design, data collection methodology, weighting, benchmarking and estimation and the reliability of estimates can be accessed from the Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation Explanatory Notes page or the Retirement and Retirement Intentions Explanatory Notes page.

File Structure



FILE STRUCTURE

The 2010-11 Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions microdata are available at one level. This level is depicted in the image below, with the items referred to as Person Level Data Items.

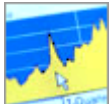


Some household characteristics are provided at the person level, such as gross weekly household income, and whether any children aged 14 years or under are present in the

household.

The data items are ordered under headings and a number of data items are contained under each heading. For example age, sex, social marital status, and geographic identifiers (e.g. state/territory of usual residence, remoteness area) etc are contained in 'Demographic Characteristics'. A complete list of data items for the Barriers and Incentives in Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions TableBuilder can be accessed from the Downloads page.

Using theTableBuilder



USING TABLEBUILDER

For general information relating to TableBuilder or instructions on how to use features of the TableBuilder product, please refer to the User Manual: TableBuilder, 2011 (cat. no. 1406.0.55.005).

More specific information relevant to the Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions TableBuilder, which should help users to understand and interpret the data, are outlined below.

ADJUSTMENT OF CELL VALUES

In order to prevent the release of identifiable data in TableBuilder, cell values in tables using the 2010-11 Barriers and Incentives and Retirement and Retirement Intentions dataset are randomly adjusted.

For this dataset, the TableBuilder 'additivity' technique is not applied. As a result, a table of estimates of counts or proportions will in general not be internally consistent (i.e. the interior cells may not add up to the totals). Also, there is consistency of cell values across tables because identically defined cells in different tables are subject to the same random adjustment.

WEIGHTING

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total in scope population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit, which, for the MPHS topics Barriers and Incentives to Labour force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions, the weight is at the person level. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit. The first step in calculating weights for each unit is to assign an initial weight, which is the inverse of the probability of being selected in the survey. The initial weights are then calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks'. Weights are calibrated against population benchmarks to ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population rather than the distribution within the sample itself.

The survey was benchmarked to the estimated civilian population aged 15 years and over living in private dwellings in each state and territory, excluding the scope exclusions listed under Explanatory Notes 6 to 8. For person estimates, the MPHS was benchmarked to the

Estimated Resident Population (ERP) in each state and territory, excluding the ERP living in very remote areas of Australia, at 31 March 2011. The MPHS estimates do not (and are not intended to) match estimates for the total Australian person/household populations obtained from other sources (which may include people living in very remote parts of Australia).

SELECTING DATA ITEMS FOR CROSS-TABULATION

Apart from the Field Exclusion Rules that are applied in TableBuilder, there are minimal restrictions on the items that can be selected to appear in a table. Therefore, users are able to create tables where the output is not meaningful.

Note: To ensure confidentiality, TableBuilder prevents the cross-tabulation of certain variables which could result in respondents being identified. These are known as field exclusion rules. This stipulates the maximum number of data items from a group that can appear in a table. If a field exclusion rule exists for certain variables, users will see the following message: **"Maximum number of fields in exclusion group exceeded."**

ZERO VALUE CELLS

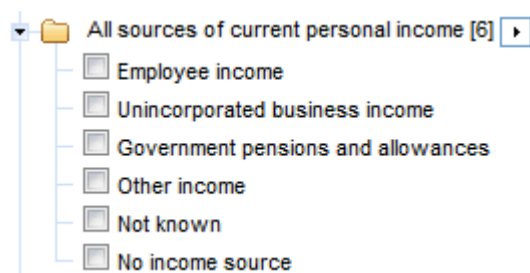
Tables generated from sample surveys will sometimes contain cells with zero values because no respondents that satisfy the parameters of the cell were in the survey. This is despite there being people in the population with those characteristics. That is, the cell may have had a value above zero if all persons in scope of the survey had been enumerated. This is an example of sampling variability which occurs with all sample surveys. Relative Standard Errors cannot be generated for zero cells. Whilst the tables may include cells with zero values, the ABS does not publish such zero estimates and recommends that TableBuilder clients do not use these data either.

TABLE POPULATIONS

The data item list spreadsheet that can be accessed from the Downloads page, includes a worksheet that contains estimates of the main populations applicable to the Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions data items. These estimates can be used to assist in validating tables produced from TableBuilder. It should be noted however, that due to the random adjustment procedures inherent in the product, estimates for the same population may vary from table to table. Consequently, the population estimates table should be used as a guide only.

MULTI-RESPONSE DATA ITEMS

A number of data items allow for more than one response. These are referred to as 'multi-response data items'. For example, a person can receive more than one source of personal income, as shown below.



When a multiple response data item is tabulated, the components do not sum to the total. The total will be greater than or equal to the sum of its components. Multi-response data items can be identified by the initials 'MR' in the data item list, which can be accessed from

the Downloads page. In the example below, the sum of the components is 24,071,700 whereas the total is 16,507,300.

Persons	Persons (000's)
All sources of current personal income ↑↓⊕⊖	↑↓
Employee income	9,816.0
Unincorporated business income	1,635.8
Government pensions and allowances	4,999.9
Other income	6,902.3
Not known	71.7
No income source	646.0
Total	16,507.3

NOT APPLICABLE CATEGORIES

Most data items include a 'not applicable' category. The 'not applicable' category comprises those respondents who were not asked a particular question(s) and hence are not applicable to the population to which the data item refers. The 'not applicable' category, where relevant, is shown in the data item list (see the Data Item List in the Downloads page).

Data Item List



DATA ITEM LIST

A complete list of all data items included on the Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions TableBuilder is provided in an Excel spreadsheet that can be accessed from the Downloads page. Multi-response data items can be identified by the initials 'MR'. The data item list also includes the population applicable to each data item and a separate table showing the estimates applicable to these populations. The population estimates are included to assist users in validating tables.

Users intending to purchase the TableBuilder should ensure the data they require, and the level of detail required, are available and applicable for the intended use.

Conditions of Use



CONDITIONS OF USE

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The **Census and Statistics Act 1905** includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering our questionnaires. For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent disclosure' and 'Microdata' on our web page [How the ABS keeps your information confidential](#).

In accordance with the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**, data in TableBuilder are subjected to a confidentiality process before release. The release of microdata must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation.

This confidentiality process is applied to avoid releasing information that may lead to the identification of individuals, families, households, dwellings or businesses.

Prior to being granted access to TableBuilder users must agree to the following ABS Terms and Conditions of TableBuilder Access:

- understand that the ABS has taken great care to ensure that the information on the survey output record file is correct and as accurate as possible and understand that the ABS does not guarantee, or accept any legal liability whatsoever arising from, or connected to, the use of any material contained within, or derived from TableBuilder
- understand that all data extracted from the survey output record file through TableBuilder will be confidentialised prior to being supplied and that as a result, no reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment and respondent and processing errors
- inform the ABS, through your Contact Officer, upon leaving your organisation that your access is disabled
- not to provide my TableBuilder user ID and password access to any other person or organisation.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be emailed to intermediary.management@abs.gov.au.

PRICE

Microdata access is priced according to ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details refer to ABS Pricing Policy on the ABS website. For microdata prices refer to the Microdata prices web page.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ACCESS

Clients wishing to access the microdata should read the How to register web page. Clients should familiarise themselves with the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs and other related microdata information which are available via the Microdata web pages, before applying for access through the Registration Centre.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides participating universities with access to a range of ABS products and services. This includes access to microdata. For further

information, university clients should refer to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement web page.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Microdata Entry page on the ABS website contains links to microdata related information to assist users to understanding and access microdata. For further information users should email microdata.access@abs.gov.au or telephone (02) 6252 7714.

About this Release

The following microdata products are available from the Barriers & Incentives to Labour Force Participation and Retirement & Retirement Intentions Survey:

- Survey TableBuilder

Apply online for access to these products at www.abs.gov.au/about/microdata

These products provide data on labour force characteristics, the potential labour force and the characteristics of that potential labour force. It also contains data on retirement trends, the factors which influence decisions to retire, and the income arrangements that retirees and potential retirees have made to provide for their retirement. A detailed list of data items is available on the Downloads tab.

The microdata enables users to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure the integrity of data and maintain confidentiality of respondents. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

Approved users can combine labour force characteristics with Barriers & Incentives data to obtain a better understanding of the factors that influence people to participate (more) in the labour force and the hours they work. The Retirement & Retirement Intentions data can be used to obtain a better understanding of retirement trends and issues facing older Australians.

Explanatory Notes

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Actively looking for work

People who were taking active steps to find work. Active steps comprise:

- registering with a Job Network employment agency
- contacting an employment agency
- contacting prospective employers
- answering a newspaper advertisement for a job

- checking factory notice boards
- advertising or tendering for work.

Additivity

A technique that can be implemented in TableBuilder to ensure that any tables produced remain 'additive'. If implemented, adjustments are made to cell values so that each table of estimates will be internally consistent, and add up to the totals. For example, tables at different geographic levels are adjusted independently, and tables at the higher geographic level may not be equal to the sum of the tables for the component geographic units. The technique may introduce discrepancies between tables with similar data items. For the 2010-11 Barriers and Incentives and Retirement and Retirement Intentions TableBuilder product, 'additivity' has not been implemented.

Available to start work

For people not in the labour force, those who were available to start work in the reference week or within four weeks.

Available to start work with more hours

Employed people who usually worked 0-15 hours per week in all jobs and were available to start work with more hours in the reference week or within four weeks.

Current job

The job in which a person currently works.

Did not prefer to work more hours

People who said 'no' or 'don't know' when asked 'would you prefer to work more hours than you usually work?'.

Did not want a paid job

People who were not classified as employed or unemployed who answered 'no' or 'don't know' when asked if they would like a paid job.

Duration of current main job/last job

Length of time worked in current main job/last job.

Educational attainment

Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is defined as the highest educational attainment a person has achieved, and is not a measurement of relative importance of different fields of study.

Employed

People who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own

- account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employees

People who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or people who operate their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.

Employees (excluding OMIEs) with paid leave entitlements

Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises) (OMIEs), who were entitled to either paid sick leave or paid holiday leave (or both).

Employees (excluding OMIEs) without paid leave entitlements

Employees (excluding OMIEs), who were not entitled to, or did not know whether they were entitled to, paid sick and paid holiday leave.

Employers

People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade and hire one or more employees.

Employment types

Classification of employed people according to the following employment type categories on the basis of their main job (i.e. the job in which they usually work the most hours):

Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises)

- with paid leave entitlements
- without paid leave entitlements

Owner managers

- owner managers of incorporated enterprises
- owner managers of unincorporated enterprises

Contributing family workers

Family

Two or more people, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

Field Exclusion Rule

A field exclusion rule is a restriction that has been built into TableBuilder. This rule stipulates the maximum number of data items from a group that can appear in a table.

Full-time educational attendance

People aged 15-19 who, during the reference week were enrolled full time at secondary or high schools, and those aged 15-24 who, during the reference week, were enrolled full time at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other tertiary educational institution.

Full-time workers (usual)

Employed people who usually work 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs).

Future starters

People who were not employed during the reference week, were waiting to start a job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Government pension/allowance

Income support payments from government to persons under social security and related government programs. Included are pensions and allowances received by aged, disabled, unemployed and sick persons, families and children, veterans and their survivors, and study allowances for students. Payments made by overseas governments as well as the Australian government are included.

Gross income

Regular and recurring cash receipts including monies received from wages and salaries, government pensions and allowances, and other regular receipts such as superannuation, workers' compensation, child support, scholarships, profit or loss from own unincorporated business or partnership, and property income. Gross income is the sum of current income from all these sources before income tax or the Medicare levy have been deducted.

Group jack-knife method

This method of calculating standard errors starts by dividing the survey sample into a number of approximately equal-sized groups (replicate groups). Replicate estimates of the population total are then calculated from the sample by excluding each replicate group in

turn. The jack-knife variance is derived from the variation of the respective replicate estimates around the estimate based on the whole sample.

Had ever worked for two weeks or more / Had worked at some time

For Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation: People who are not in the labour force or are unemployed and have previously worked for two weeks or more.

For Retirement and Retirement Intentions: People who have previously worked for two weeks or more.

Had previously worked

People who are not in the labour force or are unemployed, who have previously worked for two weeks or more, less than 20 years ago.

Income/Gross income

Regular and recurring cash receipts including monies received from wages and salaries, government pensions and allowances, and other regular receipts such as superannuation, workers' compensation, child support, scholarships, profit or loss from own unincorporated business or partnership, and property income. **Gross income** is the sum of current income from all these sources before income tax or the Medicare levy have been deducted.

Incorporated enterprise

An enterprise which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners. Also known as a limited liability company.

Industry

An industry relates to a group of businesses or organisations that perform similar sets of activities in terms of the production of goods and services. Industry is classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (cat.no.1292.0).

Intends to retire from the labour force

Those people who indicated that they intend to give up all labour force activity, that is working or looking for work.

Labour force

The civilian population can be split into two mutually exclusive groups: the labour force (employed and unemployed people) and people not in the labour force.

Last job

Refers to last job less than 20 years ago.

Looking for work with more hours

Refers to persons who indicated that they had done something in the last four weeks to obtain more hours of work.

Main English-speaking countries

The list of Main English Speaking Countries provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, and the United States of America.

Main job

The job in which most hours were usually worked.

Non-school qualification

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.

Not employed

People who are either unemployed or not in the labour force.

Not retired from the labour force

People aged 45 years and over who have, at some time, worked for two weeks or more and were not retired from the labour force. That is, either employed, unemployed or intending to look for, or take up, work in the future.

Occupation

An occupation relates to a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. Occupation is classified according to ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, Revision 1, 2009 (cat.no.1220.0).

Owner managers

People who work in their own business, with or without employees, whether or not the business is of limited liability.

Owner managers of incorporated enterprises

People who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company).

Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises

People who operate their own unincorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred. Includes those engaged independently in a trade or profession.

Part-time workers (usual)

Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs).

Persons in the labour force

People who were classified as being in the labour force, that is, either employed or unemployed.

Persons not in the labour force

People who were not classified as employed or unemployed.

Preferred to work more hours

Employed people who usually work 0-15 hours each week and would prefer to work more hours than they usually work.

Reference week

The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.

Relationship in household

The relationship of people who live in the same household.

Retired from the labour force

People who had previously worked for two weeks or more and had retired from work or looking for work, and did not intend to look for, or take up, work in the future.

Retirement scheme

Includes superannuation schemes, life assurance policies or similar schemes that provide financial benefit when a person leaves work.

Status in employment

Employed people classified according to whether they were employees, employers, own account workers, or contributing family workers.

Superannuation scheme

Any fund, association or organisation set up for the purpose of providing financial cover for members when they retire from work. For this survey, information about superannuation scheme membership was collected if the respondent indicated that contributions had been made to a scheme. Contributions could either have been made by the respondent, the respondent's partner or the respondent's employer.

Time since last job

The elapsed time since ceasing last job.

Took inactive steps

People who did not take active steps to look for work (see actively looking for work). Includes only looked in newspapers.

Unemployed

People who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Unincorporated enterprise

A business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred.

Unpaid activities

Includes caring for own children or other people's children including grandchildren. Also includes caring for elderly or someone with long-term illness or disability or unpaid voluntary workers. Respondents were asked whether they had undertaken any of these activities in the last four weeks.

Usual number of hours

The number of hours usually worked in a week in all jobs.

Wanted a paid job

People who are not in the labour force and would like a paid job of any kind. Includes people who said 'depends'.

Wanted more hours

See 'Preferred to work more hours'.

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
CURF	confidentialised unit record file
LFS	Labour Force Survey

MPHS	Multipurpose Household Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
OMIE	owner manager of incorporated enterprise
REEM	Remote Execution Environment for Metadata
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error

Quality Declaration

QUALITY DECLARATION – SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation topic provides data on people aged 18 years and over who are either not employed or work less than 16 hours. The Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation topic is designed to bring various factors which influence labour force participation into one data source for comparison. The survey provides information on the potential labour force and what prevents these people finding or taking up (more) work. Related supplementary surveys of Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0), Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no. 6265.0) and Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0) offer more detailed information on the various populations.

The Retirement and Retirement Intentions topic presents information about the retirement status and retirement intentions of people aged 45 years and over who have, at some time, worked for two weeks or more. The data collected in the Retirement and Retirement Intentions topic provide information on retirement trends, the factors which influence decisions to retire, and the income arrangements that retirees and potential retirees have made to provide for their retirement. The data are cross-classified by a range of demographic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status and country of birth, as well as labour force characteristics.

For a complete list of populations and data items collected in these topics, see the Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions TableBuilder Data Item List that can be accessed from the Downloads page.

TIMELINESS

The most recent Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions topics were conducted throughout Australia during the 2010-11 financial year. They were a component of the 2010-11 Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS), collected as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey (LFS). Results from the survey were released approximately six months after the completion of enumeration, on 6 December 2011 in the publication Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation (cat. no. 6239.0) and 13 December 2011 in Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia (cat. no. 6238.0).

ACCURACY

The response rate for the 2010-11 MPHS was approximately 80% after taking exclusions into account. See the Explanatory Notes (paragraph 11) of the summary publications for more information. The exclusion of people living in very remote parts of Australia has only a minor impact on aggregate estimates, except for the Northern Territory where these people account for around 23% of the population.

The number of completed interviews (after taking into account scope and coverage exclusions) for the Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation topic was 5,374, and 6,929 for the Retirement and Retirement Intentions topic.

Estimates from the survey are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

The MPHS was designed primarily to provide estimates at the Australia level. Broad estimates are available for states and territories, though users should exercise caution when using estimates at this level because of the presence of high sampling errors.

COHERENCE

No new content was included in the 2010-11 topics, and it only contained core content. As a result, questions on incentives to join or increase participation in the labour force, self assessed health, whether had private health insurance, housing tenure and intentions for a healthy/active retirement that were included in the 2008-09 survey, were excluded.

Care should be taken in interpreting the data in the 'All reasons not available to start work/more hours' and 'Main reason not available to start work/more hours' items. Between the 2008-09 and 2010-11 MPHS, there was an increase in 'caring for children' compared to 'home duties' as the reason for not being available to work.

Since the 1997 issue of Retirement and Retirement Intentions there have been conceptual changes which affect time series comparisons. For instance, 'retired from the labour force' is now defined as 'persons who had previously worked for two weeks or more and had retired from work or looking for work, and did not intend to look for, or take up, work at any time in the future'. In the 1997 issue, this concept was defined as 'persons who had retired from work or looking for work of more than 10 hours per week, and did not intend to work in the future'. These people were considered fully retired. Persons who had never worked more than 10 hours were considered fully retired. Due to these conceptual changes, users should exercise caution when comparing estimates with previous surveys.

High reporting of non-personal income money sources (e.g. partner's income, savings or selling assets) to personal income questions in previous cycles of this survey led to the inclusion of 'all/main sources of funds for meeting living costs' data items in 2008–09 to improve this information. The categories for these items are 'personal income', 'partner's income', 'savings or selling assets' and 'none of the above'. The aim was to determine the main source of funds for meeting day-to-day living expenses (currently and at retirement or expected at retirement). These categories have once again been included for the 2010-11 MPHS.

'Transition to retirement plans' were collected from employed persons aged 45 years and over, through a sequence of questions about changes they might make to their working arrangements before retiring. Examples include whether they would work part time, change their employer or change other aspects of their employment such as working more from home or reducing their responsibilities. For those who reported transition plans, the age at which these were to be implemented was also collected (as an exact age or age range). Range responses were included in 'average age intends to implement transition plans' by

substituting the low-point of the range into the calculation.

The related supplementary surveys of Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0), Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no. 6265.0) and Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0) offer more detailed information on the various populations of interest in the Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation topic. Data from these supplementary surveys are not directly comparable with data from Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation as there are differences in scope, collection methodology and sample design (including sample size). For example, the three supplementary surveys are conducted in a particular month each year, whereas Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation data are usually collected over the 12 months of a financial year (for 2004-05, the survey was conducted over 11 months). Information for the supplementary surveys is collected using the Any Responsible Adult methodology, whereas the Barriers and Incentives topic uses personal interviewing. For more information see chapters 21 and 22 of Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)

Detailed data on retirement is also available in Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia (cat. no. 6361.0) where concepts are comparable.

INTERPRETABILITY

The Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions publications contains detailed Explanatory Notes, Technical Notes and a Glossary that provide information on the terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics.

Seasonally adjusted and trend estimates are not produced. The estimates are based on information collected over the financial year. However, seasonal weighting is not undertaken.

Further commentary is often available through articles and data published in other ABS products, including:

Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) - refer to appendix 2 for past articles.

Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0) - refer to the Cumulative list of articles for past articles.

Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

Year Book, Australia (cat. no. 1301.0) - refer to the 'Labour' chapter.

ACCESSIBILITY

Microdata products are available to approved users. Users wishing to access the microdata should read the How to Apply for Microdata web page, before applying for access through the Registration Centre. Users should also familiarise themselves with information available via the Microdata Entry Page.

A full list of available microdata can be viewed via the Expected and available Microdata. More detail regarding types and modes of access to CURFs can be found on the CURF Access Modes and Levels of Detail web page.

Microdata for the 2010-11 Barriers and Incentives in Labour Force Participation and Retirement and Retirement Intentions topics are available through the [TableBuilder](#) product. Data for previous surveys conducted in 2004-05, 2006-07 and 2008-09 can be accessed

through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

Any questions regarding access to microdata can be forwarded to microdata.access@abs.gov.au or phone (02) 6252 7714.

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